

CLAIMS

1. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking reaction by using a crosslinking agent so as to inhibit worsening in initial characteristics thereof.

2. A process for producing a vegetable article, comprising: subjecting the vegetable article to a crosslinking reaction by using a crosslinking agent so as to inhibit worsening in initial characteristics thereof.

3. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking reaction by using a crosslinking agent, wherein a moisture content change index after washing and dehydration according to JIS L 0217 103 method defined by the following equation is 0.9 or less.

$$\text{Moisture content change index} = A/B$$

A: Moisture content after one-time washing of crosslinked vegetable article

B: Moisture content after one-time washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

4. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking reaction by using a crosslinking agent, wherein a bulk density change index before washing and after washing and drying according to JIS L 0127 103 method defined by the following equation is 0.7 or less.

Bulk density change index = $\{(C1 - C0)/C0\}/\{(D1 - D0)/D0\}$

C0: Bulk density before washing of crosslinked vegetable article

C1: Bulk density after one-time washing of crosslinked vegetable article

5 D0: Bulk density before washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

D1: Bulk density after one-time washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

5. A vegetable article which has been subjected to a crosslinking
10 reaction by using a crosslinking agent, wherein a lightness (L*) change
index before washing and after washing according to JIS L 0217 103 method
defined by the following equation is 0.7 or less.

Lightness change index = $\{(E1 - E0)/E0\}/\{(F1 - F0)/F0\}$

E0: L* before washing of crosslinked vegetable article

15 E1: L* after one-time washing of crosslinked vegetable article

F0: L* before washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

F1: L* after one-time washing of uncrosslinked vegetable article

6. The vegetable article according to claim 3 or 4, which comprises
20 a fiber aggregate except for a fruit or a husk and a peel of the fruit and a
general-use natural cellulose fiber.

7. The vegetable article according to claim 3 or 5, which comprises
one kind or plural kinds selected from a leaf, a stem, a trunk and a root of a
25 plant.

8. A product comprising the vegetable article according to claim 1 or any one of claims 3 to 7.